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Air Operating & Compliance Section
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Dear Mr. Molder:

This letter is in response to your December 23, 2002, letter requesting an official determination as to whether or not a system proposed by Forrest View Recycling and Disposal ("FVRD") and Wyandotte County is a treatment system for purposes of the Municipal Solid Waste Landfills New Source Performance Standard ("NSPS"). Currently, FVRD uses a compressor/blower with a liquid knockout sump to supply landfill gas ("LFG") for the Wyandotte County Unified Government's Fleet Maintenance Facility. The Maintenance Facility uses the gas in eight, 80,000 BTU/hr space heaters. The proposed system would consist of adding a 155 scfm, stainless steel, coalescing filter with a 0.01 micron screen to the current system.

As you know, currently there is no definition for "treatment system" in the current NSPS regulations. In the "Enabling Document for the New Source Performance Standards and Emission Guideline for Municipal Solid Waste Landfills" (EPA-453/R-96-004), we state that LFG can be processed and sold as a fuel and that the goal is to process LFG to a purity level equivalent to that of pipeline natural gas. Also, EPA Region 3 made a determination in a letter dated February 12, 2002 that a system consisting of refrigeration, filtering through a 10 micron screen, and compression for combustion in energy recovery devices satisfied the definition of "treatment." We have also proposed a definition for "treatment system" in the May 23, 2002 *Federal Register* and discussed the proposed definition on page 36477 where we stated:

> At a minimum, the system must filter landfill gas using a dry filter or similar device (e.g., impaction, interception or diffusion device). The filter should reduce particulate matter in the gas stream. This will prolong the life of the combustion device and decrease the buildup of material on combustion device internals, which will support good combustion. Good combustion is essential to ensuring the proper destruction of NMOC. In addition, the system must de-water landfill gas using chillers or other dehydration equipment. The de-watering equipment should reduce moisture content of the gas, which will maintain low water content in the gas and will prevent degradation of combustion efficiencies. Finally, the system

must compress landfill gas using gas blowers or similar devices. Compression should further reduce the moisture content of the gas and raise gas pressure to the level required by the end use combustion device.

While we have not yet taken final action on this proposed definition, it does reflect EPA's current position on this issue.

Although the proposed system has a liquid knockout sump it does not use chillers or other dehydration equipment to de-water the LFG as discussed in the May 23, 2002 *Federal Register*. Without chillers the LFG would not have a purity level equivalent to that of pipeline natural gas since pipeline natural gas has a low moisture content. Also, the system that Region 3 determined to be a "treatment system" refrigerated the LFG. Therefore, our determination is that the proposed system does not qualify as a "treatment system" as specified at 40 Code of Federal Regulations Section 60.752(b)(2)(iii)(C).

Note that EPA is continuing to look at the definition of "treatment system" and the final definition may differ from the proposed definition. Therefore, it is possible that EPA may change its position in the future and allow a system similar to the one proposed to be considered a "treatment system."

Please contact Ward Burns of my staff at (913) 551-7960 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Donald C. Toensing
Chief
Air Permitting and Compliance Branch

ARTD/APCO: Burns/7960: ksmith: 2/13/03: Disk22-letter.wpd